

From: Thomas [REDACTED]
To: -- City Clerk; Jared Hall
Cc: luciana_marques@newflyer.com; Dana Turrey; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Petaluma City Council Consent Calendar 1/22/2024: 4 EV Buses
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2024 6:09:31 PM

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Hi Petaluma Friends,

Writing as an interested member of the public, I would like to request removal of Consent Calendar Item #3 for further discussion.

<https://cityofpetaluma.primegov.com/Portal/Meeting?meetingTemplateId=17009>

I noticed the City of Petaluma is preparing to go into contract to buy 4 new EV buses. Congratulations, this is very exciting!

However, I also noticed that yesterday this bus manufacturer issued a statement that although they increased production last year by 19% to ~4,000 units, they now have a backlog of over 10,500 units (~\$8 billion), BEFORE counting any of this new batch of 3,800 new orders (which presumably includes Petaluma's 4 buses)!

<https://www.nfigroup.com/news-releases/news-release-details/nfi-provides-update-fourth-quarter-2023-deliveries-orders>

The Staff Report for this item says, "The vehicles would be manufactured and delivered with an estimated 14-month build and delivery timeline (estimated receipt in February 2025)," but considering this company's recent backlog disclosure, this estimate no longer strikes me as being even remotely realistic. And considering what happened to Proterra last year, we can't be too complacent.

I understand that this is a complicated bulk procurement (facilitated by DGS), and that there may be additional contingency terms that might come into force in the case of late delivery. However, none of these details seem to be reflected in the Staff Report, especially whether any discounts or reimbursements for late delivery might actually make it back to cover the real costs to Petaluma of any delays. Considering that your buses are already at or near their end-of-life, I can imagine smaller agencies like Petaluma suffering the worst impacts of any delivery delays if you don't speak up now.

Therefore, before having your City Council agree to this purchase, I would strongly recommend getting further assurances from both DGS and the manufacturer as to how Petaluma would be made whole -- and not harmed -- in the event that all four of your buses are not delivered by the end of February 2025.

I have taken the liberty of cc'ing the Technical Sales Manager at New Flyer, who hopefully can provide sufficient assurances in advance of your City Council's decision next week to allay these concerns.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

- Tom Conlon

-- for identification purposes only...

Thomas P. Conlon

Executive Committee, Sierra Club Sonoma Group

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